

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 44, Number 2 P.O. Box 68, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 Thursday, November 27, 1980

## News Review Marks Another Anniversary, Starts Forty - fourth Year of Publication

This month the **Greenbelt News Review** begins its forty-fourth year of continuous publication. Originally, a letter-size mimeographed publication consisting of sixteen pages, then titled the **Greenbelt Co-operator**, the paper began publication on November 24, 1937—within six weeks after the first Greenbelt families had unpacked their household belongings.

As the newspaper begins its new year, staff members have been delighted to learn that the **News Review** has again received recognition outside the community, winning two media awards in the recent Prince Georges County Public Relations Association competition.

An innovation begun two years ago, augmenting the staff through an agreement with the Departments of English and Journalism of the University of Maryland to accept placement of student interns, is being continued to the **News Review's** advantage.

Each semester since September 1978 one or two interns have participated in the regular work of writing and editing copy for the

paper. The program is sponsored by the Alfred M. Skolnik Memorial Fund. This fund also provides for a yearly \$100 Savings Bond to be awarded to an outstanding Eleanor Roosevelt graduate interested in the field of writing.

Except for the interns, all staff members are volunteers—a fact which makes particularly notable the paper's absolute continuity since that first issue 43 years ago.

### History

Much is owed to the early pioneers who recognized the immediate need for a news medium to keep people informed of local events and to provide a forum for the exchange of views. They laid down the principles that still guide the actions of the present **News Review**—a non-partisan non-profit, cooperative endeavor, whose aims are to print the news accurately and fairly and to reflect the Greenbelt "good neighbor" philosophy of life.

At first the paper was prepared at the homes of various staff members. In January 1938 the Federal Government (which owned Greenbelt at that time) made space available at the center, free of cost, and also loaned much-needed furniture, typewriters, and office equipment. From

its original second-floor quarters in the commercial center, the paper moved its offices four times before finally coming to rest in the present basement office at 15 Parkway.

With the withdrawal of the Federal Government from town, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Greenbelt Development Corporation, continued the Federal policy of providing free office space, with the paper reimbursing the corporation for out-of-pocket expenses.

### Free Delivery

An important development in the history of the newspaper was the decision to deliver the **Co-operator** free of charge to every home in town, beginning with the issue of September 7, 1939. The additional cost of local distribution was small, and this radical change of policy provided larger circulation figures, which could be used as evidence of the value of advertising in the **Co-operator**, once its distribution had become community wide. The town government engaged more and more space for publication of pending ordinances, budgets and the like.

The policy of free distribution remained unchanged until July See **NEWS REVIEW**, p. 4, col. 3

## City Approves Special Assessment Improvements For Upper Ridge Rd.

by Leta Mach

When the city council's consideration was concluded its decision was in support of the individual—and Nov. 17 had become Nov. 18. With a 4-0-1 vote council approved an ordinance providing special assessment improvements to upper Ridge Road.

Because Mayor Gil Weidenfeld had abstained as one of the involved property owners, Mayor pro-tem Richard Pilski found himself chairing a "hot potato." Under the terms of the ordinance, Ridge Road between Boxwood Village and 73 Court Ridge will be brought up to city standards and assessed proportionately on the adjacent property. These costs and the interest will be paid off over a 15 year period. The improvements include street widening to 36 feet, curbs, gutters and 4 foot sidewalks. Improvements will not be made until all eight lots are under development or in not more than five years. The eight involved property owners had earlier petitioned council for this special assessment improvement.

### Precedent?

Although many of the fifty people present spoke against the ordinance, more speakers favored the idea. Opposition centered on possible costs to the city, fears that a precedent would be set, and

the view that some people would receive special treatment. There was also a philosophical objection to the use of city financing for the benefit of individuals instead of businesses or corporations.

Elizabeth Maffay of Northway Road was first to speak. She suggested the individuals involved were "affluent." This was later denied by the individual property owners. Maffay said the other cases in which special assessment financing had been used were different from this proposed ordinance. The Jewish Community Center improvement was different, because the center is non-profit and Greenway Center because it is a revenue bearing commercial development.

Councilman Schwan cited the extension of Greenhill Road to Hillside and Research Roads as an example which benefited GHI. Maffay, however, felt the case was different because GHI is "a corporation, not individual owners and GHI has been in hard financial straits." Schwan, noting that GHI is composed of individuals and is a non-profit corporation, called it "a distinction without a difference."

Bob Spear, first of the eight property owners to speak, told council "we are in concurrence with the city code requirements, we are not asking for an exception or waiver." He felt the advantages of the special assessment

would be that the city could supervise the work and the job would be less expensive done as a whole. On the other hand, doing the work individually would result in a "patchwork quilt" and possible drainage problems as the work was done, and possible damage to the road improvements during later house construction. He emphasized that the project "will cost the city nothing," and would show that "there is some kind of meaning to the city and council support of single-family homes."

Pilski suggested putting the money in an escrow account for five years instead of the proposed ordinance. Spear felt the idea "might be a viable solution." However, Jim Cooney, another of the property owners, felt it would be financially impossible for his fam-

See **COUNCIL**, page 8, col. 3

### THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Thurs., Nov. 27, 10 a.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
10 a.m. Greenbelt Baptist Church  
10:30 a.m. Community Thanksgiving Service, Greenbelt Community Church

## Lake Drained, Fish Caught In Long Needed Clean-Up

by Bill Rowland

Despite any rumors about where the water has gone, Greenbelt Lake has not sprung a leak. It is being given a long-needed draining and cleaning, its fish population is being tidied up, and there should be enough water for ice skating.

The lake level has been lowered a crane with dragline to help in the removal operation, and also to remove silt from either side of the point of land that extends into the upper end of the lake. The city will welcome help in the cleanup job—see box.

As soon as the cleanup work is completed, the refilling of the lake will begin. Because it has been so many years since the lake was last completely drained, no one now on the city staff can remember how long it might be before the water reaches its normal full level. Of course, the time depends on how much precipitation there is in the coming months. In any event, city officials expect there will be at least some water to freeze over as winter comes in—and then, if it gets cold enough for long enough: ice skating!

Removal of fish from the lake during drainage is being done under the direction of James Van Tassel of the Bureau of Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Administration, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. As the first step, state Fisheries employees and city Public Works Department employees, working under Bureau of Fisheries supervision, constructed a fish trap at the exit from the drain pipe.

Any game fish found, such as bass or catfish, will be distributed elsewhere in the state. The so-called "trash" fish, such as goldfish and carp, will be removed and buried. Once all the water is out of the lake, the Bureau of Fisheries employees will net as many fish as possible from ponds around the lake bottom.

As a last step, if there are many fish still left, a chemical will be applied which suffocates the fish. According to City Manager James Giese, the Bureau of Fisheries employees have obtained a permit for the application of this chemical from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. The chemical, says Giese, is not harmful to humans, animals, or waterfowl, and will be completely gone from the lake within 15 to 30 days after its application.

Next spring the Bureau of Fisheries will restock the lake with game fish, such as large mouth bass, white catfish, and sunfish.

While the water level is down, the Public Works Department will take the opportunity to clean debris and weeds from the lake and its shoreline. Consideration is being given by the city to renting

### HELP!

City Parks Superintendent Dennis Doornekamp was delighted with the work of a dozen Jaycees who spent all day last Saturday cleaning up the Greenbelt Lake Park. Enough cans, bottles, tires and other debris were collected to fill a large truck.

"We need plenty of help, especially at this time when the lake is being drained," said Doornekamp. He welcomes the participation of all Greenbelters in the cleanup operations for the next three Saturdays.

## Last Weekend For Glass Menagerie

by Paula Lipman

The **Glass Menagerie**, the play that received rave reviews in the **Washington Post**, the **Prince Georges Post**, the **Journal** and the **Sentinel** and the **Greenbelt News Review**, will have its final performance this weekend. Curtain Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m., Sunday 2:30 p.m. For information call 474-7763.

Under the direction of Cliff Smith, the Greenbelt Players are offering a performance equal to any production at the Kennedy Center or the Arena Stage. Bruce Pope as Tom Wingfield is no novice to the theater. He has appeared in 1776, **Man of La Mancha**, **Carousel**, **Joe Egg** and others. Pope holds a B.A. in public communications from Wheeling College.

Paul Noga, as Jim O'Connor, the gentleman caller, has been associated with the Rockville Musical Theater and the Silver Spring Stage. Among his musical performances are **Man of La Mancha**, **Fiddler on the Roof** and **My Fair Lady**. His serious dramatic roles include **Count Dracula** and **Abelard and Heloise**. Paul holds a degree in speech communications.

## Boys & Girls Club

Five soccer teams from the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club competed in a tournament over the last two weekends. The teams played in the Sixth Annual Latham Boys and Girls Club Invitational Tournament at DuVal High School.

The 6-7-year-old team finished in third place in its division. The 8-year-old, 9-year-old, and 11-year-old teams each finished in second place in their respective divisions, and the 12-year-old team finished third.

Players on the championship teams were awarded trophies, while all other players received a patch or a medal.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

Regular Council Meetings - December

There will be

**NO COUNCIL MEETING**

on

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1980**

The Regular Meetings of Council will be held on

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1980**

and

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1980**

Gudrun H. Mills, CMC  
City Clerk



## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER  
**ALFRED M. SKOLNIK, PRESIDENT, 1959-1977**  
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 News Editor: Elaine Skolnik, 474-6060  
 Copy Editors: Barbara Likowski, 474-8483  
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**MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:** \$15 per year. Advertising and news articles may be mailed (Box 68, Greenbelt); deposited in our box at the Twin Pines Office before 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; or delivered to the editorial office in the basement of 15 Parkway. (474-4131). The office is open Monday after 8 pm for display advertising; deadline is 10 pm. News articles and classified ads are accepted after 8 pm on Tuesday; deadline is 10 pm.

Volume 44, Number 2

Thursday, November 27, 1980

## Advent Lecture Series At St. Hugh's Church

St. Hugh's Church will be presenting a series of lectures during Advent by Father Edson Wood, OSA. The lectures will be held Sunday evenings 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish hall. The public is invited.

The schedule is as follows:  
 Nov. 30, 7 p.m., "Is 'God' Really 'Dog' Spelled Backwards?" (Can we prove that God exists?), 8 p.m. Intermission, 8:15 p.m., "Circumcision? Are You Serious, Lord?" (History of the Old Testament); Dec. 3, 7 p.m., "A Second Eve Outshines the First One" (The Blessed Virgin, Mary), 8 p.m., Intermission, 8:15 p.m., "Joseph, Your Son Just Walked Across the Lake; What Are You Going to Do About It?" (The person of Jesus, the Christ); Dec. 14, 7 p.m., "A Little Dab'll Do Ya!" (Baptism and Confirmation), 8 p.m. Intermission, 8:15 p.m., "The Pope on 'Hollywood Squares'" (The Pope and Infallibility) Dec. 21, 7 p.m., "Wasn't 'Grace' My Father's Old Girlfriend?" (What is Grace?), 8 p.m., Intermission, 8:15 p.m., "Will U-Haul Follow Your Hearse?" (Death and the Last Things).

## Eleanor Roosevelt Chorus

by Veronica Fern

Needing a chorus with which to perform, the Prince Georges Philharmonic Orchestra recently chose the Concert Choir of Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School for a performance scheduled on Saturday, Dec. 6, at Northwestern High School at 8 p.m. The concert is a memorial to former orchestra violinist and secretary, Lorean Poptanich.

The chorus, comprised of class participants of an elective subject taught by Dr. Barbara Baker, has 130 members. Last year the chorus earned recognition at the Boston International Music Festival when they were chosen to receive a gold medal from among many Northeast and Middle Atlantic-region high schools. The chorus, an active group, performs a variety of music. Recently they were featured at the Maryland State Teachers Conference, October 17 in Baltimore, and are planning to travel to Daytona Beach, Florida for an adjudication next spring.

The chorus will be accompanied by the Philharmonic at the December 6 performance in the execution of Haydn's "Te Deum" and Brahms' "Schicksalslied Op. 54." The Philharmonic, under the direction of its new conductor, Ray Fowler, will also perform Haydn's "Symphony No. 4 in D major" (the "London") and Brahms' "Variations on a Theme by Haydn."

For ticket information call 779-7360 or 315-4695.

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The 30th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service sponsored by five religious organizations in Greenbelt will be held at the Greenbelt Community Church on Thursday, November 27, at 10:30 a.m. Sponsors are Baha'i Faith, Greenbelt Community Church, Mishkan Torah, Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church and St. Hugh's Catholic Church. There will be a free will offering for the needy of Prince Georges County. The community is invited.

## Job Well Done

To the Editor:

I would just like to say thank you to the Commissioner of Football Anita Astrayka. She did an outstanding job coordinating the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club football program for 1980. She was usually at the practices and games answering our questions and listening to our complaints. I know I speak for all of the coaches when I say well done, Anita.

Robert C. Mongelli

## Recreation Review

### Recreation Centers Holiday Hours

The City's Recreation Centers will be open on an extended basis for the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28. Both the Youth Center and SHL Rec. Center are offering open gym, table games and a Lounge Room with television, music and relaxation from 12 noon - 10 p.m. Vacationing residents of all ages are invited to drop by. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!!  
**1980 Men's and Women's Turkey Bowl Championship Game**

The Championship games of both the Men's Touch and Women's Flag Thanksgiving Tournaments will be held on Braden Field on Thanksgiving morning. Starting at 9:30 a.m., the Women's championship will be pitting Buck Distributing/Miller Lite against Waldenbooks. In the Men's tournament, competition will begin at 10:45 a.m. with Enterprise Carpets vs F.C.S. Come on down and work up an appetite for that turkey dinner by cheering for a favorite team.

### Basketball Practice Schedules Set

All basketball players take note that permits for reserved court use in the city's recreation centers are now in effect. Permits for Recreation Department sponsored programs have first priority for use. Gymnasium schedules are posted with full details on youth, adult and open hours of court use at each center. Additionally, several area schools offer open gym hours to the public. Local gyms are open as follows: Greenbelt Junior High School, Sundays 1-5 p.m., and Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High, Sundays 6-10 p.m.

## Thanksgiving Day Service

Greenbelt Baptist Church will have its annual Thanksgiving Day Service at 10 a.m. on Nov. 27. There will be a program of traditional Thanksgiving hymns, special music and a time to verbally share in gratitude. The public is invited. The church is located at Crescent and Greenhill Roads.

## THANKSGIVING RACES

Two races for long distance runners will be held Nov. 27. The first is a 5-mile run through the streets of Alexandria, Va. beginning at 10:15 a.m.

More convenient to Greenbelters is a 6-mile run through Greenbelt Regional Park starting at 10:30 a.m. A 1.7 mile race starts at 10 a.m. Both of these races begin at the Holly Picnic area near the ranger station. For more information call Larry Noel at 474-9362.

## Who Will be Next?

To the Editor:

At a closed-to-the-public, midnight meeting last Thursday, the GHI Board of Directors voted to overrule a valid oral contract between GHI and a member family, and to evict that family from GHI as soon as possible. The facts:

A GHI family who owned one of the townhouses offered it for sale first to GHI, and also requested a lease agreement to rent the house until next April (when this family's new Greenbelt home will be ready for occupancy. As has been the GHI policy for townhouses, GHI exercised its option to purchase the unit. The General Manager (whose office has always had authority in such matters) approved the lease, under terms acceptable to both GHI and the member. Settlement on the sale of the townhouse occurred November 19; the member was told that the written lease agreement was still being prepared and was not yet ready for signature.

This lease agreement was raised as an issue by one of GHI's Board members at an Executive Session (that is, a closed-door non-public meeting) late on the night of November 20. The GHI Board, without public discussion or input from any member, voted to veto the legally-binding oral contract which GHI had made with this family. The Board then directed the General Manager to sell the house as rapidly as possible and evict the family on thirty days' notice. This action would leave this family high and dry, with no place to live for four months.

The Board's action was clearly illegal, and it could very well end up in a costly lawsuit, which all GHI members will pay for; it will probably also result in a vacant townhouse for several months, which GHI will also have to pay for. More disturbing is the disappointing lack of Cooperative Spirit displayed by the "New Directions" Board of GHI, which was elected last June.

Three of these "New Directions" Board members appeared at a Greenbelt City Council meeting last week to argue that the rights of corporations should be more important than the rights of individuals. Apparently, meeting within GHI itself, they also feel nothing for the rights of individuals.

While the plight of one GHI family prompted this letter, we are frightened that similar non-caring treatment may await any of us, under our current Board.

Bob and Mary Helen Spear  
 Jim and Cass Cooney

## Genealogical Society Meets December

A "Genealogical Feud" will be enacted by members of the Prince Georges County Genealogical Society on December 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Library. This is a take-off on the popular TV program.

Visitors are invited to attend all meetings. For membership information, please call President Mayhew at 262-8692 or write Box 819, Bowie, Md. 20715.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

### Episcopal

Baltimore Blvd. at Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
 Rev. John G. Bals, Rector  
 422-8057

## Bahá'í Faith

Greenbelt Community

P.O. Box 245

Greenbelt, Md.

474-4090 \* 345-2918

## Holy Cross Lutheran Thanksgiving Services

Festive services of Thanksgiving will be conducted at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. and on Thursday at 10 a.m. The service on Thursday will include the celebration of Holy Communion. Special music will be provided by the choirs at both services. Visitors are always welcome.

## Mowatt Memorial

United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Rd. 474-9410

Church School 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Ira C. Keperling, Pastor

474-1924

## PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN CHURCH

3215 Powder Mill Rd.  
 937-3666

Nov. 30, 9:30 am — Forum  
 Nat'l Pub. Radio President

FRANK MANKIEWICZ

"Conservative Religion and  
 Right-Wing Politics Revisited"

11 a.m. - Service/Religious Ed.

Rev. Richard Kelley

"Charismatic Faith or Just  
 a Touch of Mysticism"

## GOD'S WORD HAS A MODERN MESSAGE FOR MODERN MAN.

DISCOVER THIS IN YOUR LIFE

## GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

474-4212

Crescent &amp; Greenhill Roads

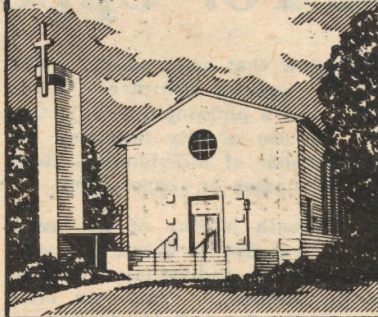
Bible Study for all ages (Sun.) 9:45 am

Worship Services 11:00 am &amp; 7:00 pm

Mid-week Prayer service (Wed.) 8:00 pm

For bus transportation, call Church office  
 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. weekdays.

## Greenbelt Community Church



(United Church of Christ)  
 Hillside and Crescent Roads  
 Phone 474-6171 mornings  
 Christian Education (all ages)

10 A.M.

Worship Service 11 A.M.

Nursery provided at  
 2B Hillside

Rev. Sherry Taylor and  
 Rev. Harry Taylor co-pastors

## Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Road

WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:30 &amp; 11:15 a.m.

Infant Nursery Provided

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: 9:50 to 10:50 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:50 to 10:50 a.m.

Ages 3 - 18, transportation provided

NURSERY SCHOOL: 9:50 a.m.

A new program offering a Christian Nursery  
 school experiences to children ages 3 - 5.

SUPER TUESDAY 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

A program for ages 8 - 12 including choir,  
 religious education, recreation, supper

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE 7:30 p.m.

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m.

ADVENT SERVICES (Wednesdays) 7:30 p.m.

Edward H. Birner, Pastor

Church phone: 345-5111



# Park and Planning To Study Revitalizing Greenbelt Center

by Edith Beauchamp

The merchants and property owners of the Greenbelt Commercial Center met with representatives of the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), City Manager James Giese, Councilman Charles Schwan and other city, county and state representatives on November 6, in the council chambers, to discuss planning studies for improving, renovating, and revitalizing the Greenbelt Commercial Center.

Many of the buildings in the Center are over 40 years old and need renovating. Some of the businesses now require additional space. There are lighting problems in some portions of the Center at night. When the nearby Greenway Shopping Center opens January 3, there could potentially be a very sizeable decline in customers of Greenbelt Center, causing some businesses to close. The MNCPPC planning studies discussed at this meeting will address all of these issues.

Giese spoke about changes in the city's population which make it imperative that the Center remain a vital commercial area. There is an ever expanding "elderly population that depends on the Center as a walk-to shopping area," he said. Giese also mentioned that the city now has more singles and couples living here, and families with fewer children. The shopping needs of city residents may therefore be changing.

Giese suggested that it is also possible that instead of competing with each other the Greenway and Greenbelt Centers could benefit from their close proximity if they provided different types of services. For instance the owners of Greenway are considering offering a shuttlebus line from Springhill Lake, which would also make stops in Greenbelt Center.

## MNCPPC Study

The MNCPPC studies will have two parts. The first part will be an architectural analysis dealing with exterior renovations to the buildings, a general visual analysis of the Center to improve the environmental design and unity of the Center, and an analysis of pedestrian access and parking areas. The second part is to be a marketing survey of the current population being served by the Center and ways to increase the number of people served. This may include considering alternative types of products and services the store owners could provide. The study will also look at transportation modes to and from the Center.

Both Giese and Schwan urged the merchants to form an association so that they could have representatives working with MNCPPC, actively participating and contributing to all stages of the study. Many owners and merchants expressed their intention of taking this advice.

While the city might help implement certain portions of the study, such as landscaping maintenance of sidewalks and lighting improvements, the majority of the improvements must be made by the owners and merchants themselves.

Marion McCoy, executive director of the Maryland Industrial and Commercial Redevelopment Fund, talked about financial assistance for commercial redevelopment projects, such as the one being studied for Greenbelt Center.

Gordon Hubley of P.G. County Economic Development Department, expressed the County's interest in trying to assist Greenbelt in revitalizing the Center.

Councilman Schwan in his closing remarks to the owners and merchants said that the project, "is not going to go as a city project. It will go if it goes because it has the support of you people."

"(The MNCPPC is) not going to prepare something that is going to be handed to you. They will pro-

A new organization "Center Mall Merchants Association" (CMMA) was formed on November 18 when representatives of various Center businesses and organizations met in Suburban Trust. A Citizens Advisory Committee will also be established as an arm of the association. CMMA will act as an advisory group to the city and MNCPPC.

Leo Gerton of High's chaired the meeting. He gave them a run-down of the November 6 meeting with the city and MNCPPC. Several persons expressed their concern that the opening of the Greenway Shopping Center would have an adverse effect on the Center Mall businesses. Joe Comproni of the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union observed, "Instead of snowing us under, they could very well bring us business."

Ben Rosenzweig thought that CMMA should be primarily concerned with the commercial aspects of the center — "to make it a viable center."

Attending the meeting also were representatives of Co-op Food store, Ben Franklin, Suburban Trust, Greenbelt Library and the Greenbelt Cultural Arts Center.

vide the expert advice, but a good part of the energy and input has to be provided by you. The quality of your input and participation will determine whether it is to be successful."

## A "Calculating Bunch" At Lynbrook Court

Who owns the most calculators in that hotbed of button-pushers, 100 Lynbrook Court? Your natural guess would be Bill Wickes, whose experimentation with the sophisticated HP-41C calculator system has led to his publication of a book, *Synthetic Programming on the HP-41C*, describing his discoveries. His previous publications in a calculator journal have brought him international attention—dozens of letters from all over the world, including one from the Vatican. The book is a Greenbelt project: publication and sales of the book are being handled by Larken Publications, of which Susan Wickes is president; Edward Cook, president of Barkley and Cook, Ltd., is handling the printing.

Susan keeps the company books with the help of her calculator, a credit-card size device that also keeps time, provides a universal calendar, and reminds her of appointments. Even Lara, 2½, has a calculator, even if it is only a toy that teaches her numbers by counting puppies.

But it is Kenny, 5, who wins the calculator derby. He has two calculators, both of which he uses

## County Council Kills Waste-Sludge Complex

by Mar-Lyn Weiner

A recent Prince George's County Council decision to restrict the use of the Brown Station Road waste management complex could mean a reduction in the life of Greenbelt's Sandy Hill landfill by half. This means that in five years Greenbelt will have no place to dispose of waste material unless a new landfill is built at taxpayer expense, or the council reconsiders its decision.

On October 21, the County Council, reversing several years of solid waste and sludge planning, restricted the future use of the Brown Station Landfill to eight years. Of two permits before the council to extend the life of the Brown Station past next July, the council approved the permit that would extend the use of the landfill by only eight years while rejecting a permit that would have extended the landfill's life until the year 2,000, according to Chief Administrative Officer Kenneth Duncan.

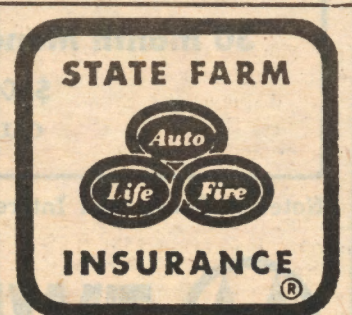
In a memorandum to municipal administrators, Duncan said that with the rejection of that permit the council denied a 250-acre area which was purchased earlier this year with council approval expressly to extend the Brown Station facility. He also stated that if the approved permit is denied by the State Health Department, the Brown Station will have to close in July 1981, when the capacity of the existing permitted area is depleted. Closure would result in doubling the volume of refuse received at the Sandy Hill landfill, thereby cutting its life in half.

In reaction, Mayor Weidenfeld sent a letter to the County Council expressing the City Council's concern that "planned landfill space is being eliminated without other landfill areas designated in its place." He also expressed concern for the effect this action would have on the Sandy Hill landfill.

In response to this and other letters received, the County Council has decided to hold a work session this week to discuss further the future of the Brown Station.

The Sandy Hill Landfill started operation in 1978. It was anticipated that it would provide 10 to 15 years of waste capacity for the northern sector of Prince Georges County, which includes Greenbelt, Bowie, Laurel and College Park.

to practice his arithmetic. He also has a habit of disappearing next door to play with the Warner's computer. At least when people refer to the Wickes' as "a calculating bunch" you know they mean it as a compliment.



For Insurance Call:  
**Don W. Taulelle**  
9200 Edmonston Rd.  
Greenbelt, Md. 20770  
**474-5007**  
Like a good neighbor,  
State Farm is there.  
State Farm Insurance Co's.  
Home Offices: Bloomington, Ill.

## City's Holiday Programs

The Ninth Annual Festival of Lights holiday program will be held during the weekend of December 5 through 7, at the Greenbelt Youth Center, with the traditional Craft Show and Sale. Handicrafted items, fashioned by over 50 exhibitors, will be available for the winter holiday gift giving season. For the 'Little Folks', as usual, the Children's Room will be open on Saturday and Sunday where they can make unique holiday crafts or buy inexpensive gift items for their family and friends.

At the same time the craftspeople are exhibiting, the Greenbelt Boys' and Girls' Club will be operating a concession stand. Proceeds will benefit their youth programs. Also, the Citizens for Greenbelt will be offering their 1980 City Telephone Directory and the Greenbelt Cultural Arts Center will be on hand providing advanced ticket sales for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's performance in Greenbelt on January 6.

Continuing through the month of December, the Festival of Lights will offer weekly holiday events including concerts, decorating displays and contests, caroling, Santa's visit and much more.

A full calendar of Festival of Lights program events will appear in next week's edition of the News Review.

## CITY NOTES

### Public Works

Catch basins and drainage ditches were cleaned and various streets patched with cold mix. Snow plows were installed on five city trucks. Pear trees were planted along Hanover Parkway. The leaf vacuum and chipper were out picking up leaves all week.

## Conference on Aging Aims Elderly Housing Options

Eunice E. Coxon was one of 2100 delegates from all parts of Maryland attending the Governor's Conference on Aging November 17 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Sponsored by the Maryland Office on Aging, this conference is the major Maryland event on aging scheduled this year as a prelude to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging.

The participants in the housing workshop, to which Coxon was assigned, considered and submitted recommendations on topics selected by staff and local community participants.

Among the subjects explored were opportunities for promoting a variety of housing options for the elderly. Included were improvement of programs of property tax relief, expansion of assistance on home maintenance by both government and private sources, the protection of elderly renters facing condominium or cooperative conversion, the identification of ways to allow older homeowners to utilize the equity in their homes, such as reverse mortgages, and assisted-independent living alternatives such as sheltered and congregate living and shared homes.

Mrs. Coxon served on the County Advisory Committee on Aging from 1972 to 1975.

## CARES

On Nov. 17, CARES director Carol Leventhal attended an all day workshop on family therapy sponsored by the University of Maryland School of Medicine and held in Baltimore.

Barbara Lawson attended a Data Collectors' Workshop at Good Shepherd Center, Halthorpe, Md. on Nov. 19.

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## Overpass Condemnation Inches Slowly Forward; Notices Delivered

by Elaine Skolnik

Almost four months after a last minute motion stalled the overpass condemnation trial, the city has completed the task of notifying Greenbriar Phase I property owners and mortgage companies. The next step is publication of the names of those owners whom the city was unable to serve with subpoenas. A new trial date will be set 30 days after public notice has been published for three consecutive weeks.

The city is seeking an easement of less than one acre for a path leading to the proposed pedestrian overpass to span the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Phase I owners who have opposed the overpass asked in a pre-trial motion on August 7 that all 252 Phase I owners and their mortgagees be officially notified of the condemnation so that each may have the opportunity to enter the case as a defendant. Circuit Court Judge Jacob Levin granted the motion.

The task of service was under the direction of Assistant City Manager Dennis Piendak. Piendak reports that the last of the subpoenas requiring personal delivery were delivered on the evening of November 20. Only two subpoenas remain unserved but both have been in the mail for

approximately twelve days. Upon receiving receipt of either the registered mail notices indicating delivery of the subpoenas or return of the subpoenas marked unclaimed from the postal service, the advertising process will begin. Publication will include 40 or 42 Greenbriar Phase I units.

Although there are 252 Phase I units and 26 mortgagees, more than 500 subpoenas were issued by the Court in Upper Marlboro. This included re-issues for a second attempt at service and for new owners or owners at new addresses. To economize, city process servers personally delivered subpoenas in Greenbriar, Fairfax City, Virginia, Annapolis, Ft. Meade and Gaithersburg as well as in Washington. (The cost to the city to mail notices by registered mail was \$5 each).

## Police Blotter

Following are the highlights from the past several weeks police activity.

A female resident was the victim of an armed robbery. She was accosted in the 7800 block of Mandan Road by a black male adult displaying a handgun. The robbery occurred at approximately 9:57 p.m.

A female resident employed at the Beltway Plaza Mall was the victim of an armed robbery. She was accosted while inside the mall by two black male juveniles displaying a large knife. The robbery occurred at approximately 7:45 p.m. between Kay Jewelers and Basco.

A female resident was the victim of a strong-arm robbery (Purse Snatch) that occurred in the 7700 block of Hanover Parkway. The robbery occurred at approximately 9:39 p.m. as the victim approached her residence.

Three young females were the victims of an indecent exposure that occurred on the sidewalk near the 11 Court of Ridge Road. The suspect was described as a white male approximately 18-25 years of age, 6 feet, 140 lbs., with black shoulder length hair. The incident occurred at approximately 8:45 a.m.

A 12 year old female was the victim of an indecent exposure that occurred while she was baby sitting in the 33 Court of Ridge Road. The incident occurred at approximately 11:39 p.m.

A female non-resident was the victim of an indecent exposure that occurred at the Big Boy restaurant. The suspect pulled up next to the victim, opened the car door, and placed both feet on the ground. He was completely nude. The victim entered the restaurant and informed Lt. Krob and Det. Scarlata P.G. Co. Police, who were off duty. The suspect was pursued a short distance at a high rate of speed. He was charged with indecent exposure.

Pfc. T. R. Justin charged two non-resident adults with possession of controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute, and possession of a manufactured article with defaced serial number.

Pfc. M. D. Sappington charged an adult non-resident with possession of controlled dangerous substance (PCP), and paraphernalia (Syringe).

Pfc. John A. Lann charged a

local adult with theft after he observed him removing property from a vehicle on Eastway. The suspect was apprehended after a short foot chase.

Pfc. D. P. O'Neil charged a non-resident adult with destruction of private property, disturbing the peace and trespassing in a domestic related incident.

Officer D. R. Kress was assaulted by an adult female who had been charged with driving while intoxicated. He was not injured.

Pfc. M. D. Sappington obtained a search warrant for a residence on Research Road in connection with a breaking and entering that had occurred at another nearby residence. Upon execution of the warrant officers had to force entry. One individual was arrested as he tried to escape by way of the attic. Property valued at \$1500 was recovered.

A breaking and entering occurred at a residence on Greenknoll Place. An undetermined amount of property was removed. Entry was gained by breaking out a basement window.

A breaking and entering occurred at a residence on Hedgewood Drive. Various property, including two handguns, was removed.

A burglary occurred at a residence on Lastner Lane. Silverware valued at over \$2,000 was removed from the residence.

Three breaking and enterings were reported in the Hanover Parkway, Mandan Road area. At 7700 Hanover Parkway, property valued at \$1,300 was removed; at 7800 Mandan Road, property valued at \$1,700 was removed; and at 7500 block of Mandan Road, cash and a handgun were removed.

A breaking and entering occurred at a residence located in the 8100 block of Bird Lane. Property valued at \$15,000 was removed. Entry was gained by forcing open the front door of the residence.

On November 20, Pfc. Watkins and "OLO" the Officer Safety Robot presented a program "Beware The Dangerous Stranger, My Bike, and Traffic Safety" at the Greenbriar Early Childhood Learning Center. Approximately 60 children attended the program.

### APB Appointments

At its November 17 meeting, city council reappointed Donald Volk and F. Anthony McCarthy to additional three-year terms on the Advisory Planning Board.

**News Review cont. fr. p. 1**  
1953, when the paper was forced by financial straits to go to a subscription basis—\$3 a year. The response was fairly encouraging, but the added cost of maintaining subscription records convinced the governing body that the additional income was not worth the additional workload. More important, the board wanted every resident to receive the paper. In January 1955 the paper returned to city-wide circulation.

Financial difficulties continued to plague the newspaper, and appeals were made to the businesses and organizations in town for funds. Finally, in April 1959, the *News Review* resorted to a house-to-house community-wide drive for funds. Organized by the drive chairman, Elaine Skolnik, who was aided by 125 volunteer court collectors, the drive netted over \$1,500. It proved such an unqualified success that it was renewed again the following year.

The yield from these drives was sufficient to meet the needs and no drives have been conducted since 1960; however, a fund drive was launched in 1966 by the Greenbelt Freedom of the Press Committee to help the paper defend itself against libel charges.

### Libel Suit

The libel charges arose out of the paper's publication of remarks by citizens at a public city council meeting regarding a proposal made to the city by a local developer, Charles Bresler. A Prince Georges County jury found the remarks libelous and a \$17,500 judgment awarded Bresler was later affirmed by the Maryland Court of Appeals. The U.S. Supreme Court, however, in May 1970, reversed and vacated the judgment, ruling that the *News Review* was "performing its wholly legitimate function as a community newspaper when it published full reports of these public debates in its news columns." To hold otherwise, the high court said, "would subvert the most fundamental meaning of a free press."

During the 4-year legal struggle, the Freedom of the Press Committee collected over \$30,000 from the community to help meet legal expenses and to pay the judgment in case of an unsuccessful appeal (\$20,000 was later returned to contributors).

## Wooster College Info For Roosevelt Students

Carol Del Propost, associate director of admissions at the College of Wooster (Ohio), will be at Eleanor Roosevelt High School at 12:15 p.m. on Dec. 4. She will meet with prospective students to provide information about preparing for college, financial aid, academic programs and extra curricular activities. The College of Wooster is a coeducational liberal arts school located 50 miles southwest of Cleveland.

### Staffing

The entire staff consists of volunteer workers, most of whom have joined the paper as their contribution to their community's activities. Since March 1957, nominal payments have been authorized to the editorial staff and to columnists — when finances permit, of course. There have been 39 changes in editorship during the paper's 43 years. The position is at present held by Mary Lou Williamson and there are 52 staff members.

At present over 6500 free copies of the *News Review* are distributed weekly to homes in Greenbelt, including Springhill Lake, Greenbriar/Glen Oaks and Windsor Green.

## Golden Age Club

by Gertrude Law

On Monday, Nov. 10, Golden Age Club members filled two buses to enjoy a trip to Gaithersburg for a roast beef dinner at the Victoria Station Restaurant. The restaurant is built around a setting of an old railroad station. A waiting room with old wooden benches gives a touch of nostalgia. Each dining area is patterned after railroad coaches.

Despite the gusts of cold wintry winds blowing around the Center Mall on Tuesday morning, the chill in the air did not discourage the Veterans from conducting the annual Veterans Day ceremonies at the Centerway Memorial site. The Rev. Kenneth Buker gave the invocation and after the music, speeches and laying of wreaths he also gave the benediction.

All members looked forward to the Thanksgiving dinner served on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Youth Center. A turkey dinner with all the trimmings was catered and a musical program presented.

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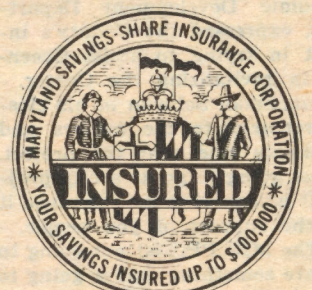
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# GHI Board Approves Budget Hears Members Complaints

by June Webb

The GHI Board of Directors approved the 1981 budget at its November 20 meeting. Presided over by President Don Volk, the board also made decisions on salary increases, Phase 2 financing, new-window replacement and member complaints. Items from last week's agenda that were not covered were added to the agenda.

Management had recommended a FY-1981 budget of \$4,446,517, an average increase of 9.95% over last year's member charges. Operating expenses for 1981 are expected to be 26% less than for 1980; the increase is to pay for rehabilitation. Director Steve Curtis' motion to spread heating charges over a 12 month period was approved. Director Wayne Williams moved to approve the recommended budget; the motion carried.

General Manager Ken Kopstein introduced Bob Walsh, of Blyth Eastman, Paine Webber, GHI's underwriters, and Bruce Coleman, of Haines and Miller, Counsel to the underwriter. Walsh spoke about revenue bond alternatives, explaining options for issuance of the bonds for Phase 2 rehabilitation: (1) Issue revenue bonds prior to January 1, 1981; (2) Postpone issuance of revenue bonds until some time in 1981 with the expectation that the bond market will improve; (3) Obtain interim financing from the State, with permanent revenue bonds issued some time in 1981.

At present, housing revenue bond interest rates are at a very high level. GHI would have to pay a high interest rate in order to find buyers for the bonds, if they were issued now.

There is Legislation pending in Congress which may remove tax exempt status from the bonds in which this form of financing could not be used. Section 8 financing is being pursued by GHI; this should result in a lower interest rate when borrowing from the State.

Management recommended the third option, believing the advantages of a lower interim interest rate, coupled with a potentially improved revenue bond market, argue in favor of obtaining state interim financing and postponing permanent issuance of revenue bonds. Director Ed James made a motion that the Board approve state interim financing from the Maryland Community Development Administration, and postpone issuance of permanent revenue bonds. The motion carried.

Management had recommended an 8% cost-of-living increase for GHI staff. Director Jenkins' motion to approve the increase was approved.

## Windows

Resuming coverage of carryover from last week's agenda, Board discussed glass replacement in windows replaced during rehab. The board approved a motion that GHI replace and maintain all windows installed under rehab, and those windows individually installed if of equal or better quality than rehab installed ones. Also covered would be present windows brought up to standard. Coverage would be up to the cost of replacing rehab installed windows.

The Long Range Planning Committee recommended a moratorium on the installation of alternate sources of heat such as fireplaces and woodstoves. Board voted to table action on this issue.

Several members spoke on matters of concern to them. Katherine Keene disapproved of the addition of items to the agenda at a board meeting, saying that members have no way of being notified that items of particular interest to them will be discussed. A member was concerned about the cutting down of trees behind 3 Court Research Rd. GHI has designated the area as a Forestry Management Preserve, and was following recommendations by removing dead trees and those of lesser value. Areas so designated are taxed at a lower rate. Mat Amberg was concerned about proposals to have individual owners pay for their own water. He pointed out the wording in his ownership contract (he had it with him) stating that GHI shall pay for water. Amberg insisted that contracts can only be changed at a membership meeting.

## Rehab

President Volk read a member letter of complaint about his old wall plates being taken when the electrical work was done in his home. Board directed that workmen leave the old plates and fixtures when replacing them. Some members have installed rather expensive plates, or have plates painted to match walls, and want to be able to put them back on after the work is done. Kopstein commented that many members will now call complaining of "trash" being left by workmen.

Board restated the policy that any member work must be equal to or better than that provided under rehab. This is to be strictly enforced.

President Volk appointed the following members to the Ad Hoc Member Complaint committee: Cathie Meetre, Bettie Denson, Kathy Lewis, Tillie Wetter, Mary Weisgerber. Prior to convening,

# R-80 Zoning Predicted For Parcels 3 & 4

by Mary Lou Williamson

Parcels 3 and 4 will probably be rezoned from R-R (Rural Residential, half-acre lots) to R-80 (single family, detached, 3.4 units/acre) when the Prince Georges County Council, sitting as the District Council, meets again on December 1 to consider rezoning applications.

On Monday, November 17, the District Council voted 5 to 4 to refer the rezoning application (A-9329) to the county office of law for preparation of an ordinance to approve R-80 in accordance with the recommendations of the Prince Georges Planning Board and its technical staff. Voting in support of the motion were council members Casula, Glendening, Wilson, Dabney and Marshall. Because this was a procedural vote and not a final action, a majority of those members of council present was sufficient for approval.

When the ordinance to approve R-80 comes back from the Office of Law to the District Council at its next regular meeting, six votes will be required for final action.

"I'm sure we'll get another vote," councilman Frank Casula (1st District, including Greenbelt) told the *News Review* on Tuesday. He said he expects at least six votes and maybe seven. Two members of the council were not present when the vote was taken, McDonough and Lombardi. Those in opposition were: Amonett, Hartlove, Koonce and Mills.

"There were good points on all sides," council member David Hartlove told the *News Review* on Tuesday. "It could have gone either way." However, he also said that the council rarely changes its mind (he could recall only two times in six years) once the Office of Law had been directed to draw up a specific ordinance. Though he said he personally still favors R-55 (single-family, 4.6 units acre) (R-80) will definitely get six votes and maybe 7 or 8."

"What if those six votes do not materialize?" Casula was asked by the *News Review*.

"If we don't get the extra vote, then it will be remanded to the Zoning Hearing Examiner," Casula said. While he would be satisfied to let the rezoning fail or be denied (in either case the property would be retained in the R-R zone) he felt certain the Dis-

the Board met briefly as the Greenbelt Development Corporation to approve raising the GDC-owned garage rents to \$15.00 per month.

At 11:30 the meeting was recessed, to be followed by an Executive session.

strict Council would not let this happen.

A vote in favor of R-55 which the City of Greenbelt opposes would require a super majority or eight votes out of 11. A super majority is also needed to approve zoning at variance with recommendations of the Master Plan for the area. The *News Review* was informed by a spokesperson in the clerk of the council's office that rezoning Parcel 4 to R-80 instead of the Master Plan's recommendation of R-T (townhouses, up to 12 units/acre) would probably not be considered at variance because R-80 is a less-dense use than R-T. Thus R-80 would not require 8 votes.

The District Council must either make a final decision or remand the case at its next meeting. The 150-day time limit for action expires on December 22; council will meet only once between now and then, on December 1. Expiration without action means automatic denial of the rezoning application.

**Editor's Note:** Due to a lack of communication, representatives from the City of Greenbelt, Mayor Gil Weidenfeld and City Manager James K. Giese, and Citizens for Greenbelt spokesman Charles Haggans arrived at the District Council Chambers 30 minutes after the action had been taken. Applicant Charles Bresler, his attorney Edward Gibbs, and party of re-

## THE NEW SLATE

Sharnell Mack is the new president of Center School's student council. She will be assisted by vice-president, Cheryl Cravens; secretary, Adrian Wright and treasurer, Kevin Thompson.

## At Greenbelt Library

**Thursday, Nov. 27**—The Library will be closed.


**Friday, Nov. 28** 1:30-3:30 p.m.—Gift Giving Ideas. Ages 11-16. Join in a fun workshop. Activities include gift wrapping, crafts, experimenting with things to do with dough and decorating small cakes; all of which can be given as gifts. Advanced registration required.

**Tuesday, Dec. 2** 7:30 p.m.—How to develop an effective resume. Presented by Career Counselors from New Alternatives, the Career Counseling Center for Women. Part II will be Dec. 16.

**Wednesday, Dec. 3** 10:30 a.m.—Drop-In Stories, Ages 3-5.

Exhibits at the library during November: Kitchen Gadgets, Lee Sando, Greenbelt; Dinosaurs, Children's Department; Paintings, Isidore Reuben, Greenbelt; Stained Glass, Douglas Swetnam, College Park.

cord, Greenbelter F. Anthony McCarthy, were the only interested parties present. The District Council entertained no further testimony, nor will it do so at the December 1 meeting.)



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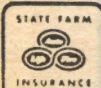
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BY JACKI SORESEN

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Turkey Drumsticks **59¢**  
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White Meat **\$4.31**

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**Fordhook Limas** 24-OZ PKG **\$1.39**

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ALEXANDRIA, VA.

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KENSINGTON, MD.



## CLASSIFIED

\$1.50 for a ten word minimum, 10¢ each additional word. Submit ads in writing, accompanied by cash payment to the News Review office at 15 Parkway before 10 p.m. of the Tuesday preceding publication, or to the News Review drop box in the Twin Pines Savings & Loan office before 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. There is no charge for listing items that are found. **BOXED ADS:** \$4.50 minimum for a 1½ inch, 1 column box; \$1.50

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Center \$3.10/hr - helpers; \$4/hr

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### GUITAR

&

### BANJO

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## Lookout Posted For Government Papers

The Library of Congress is searching for missing items which fell from a truck traveling from a storage area at the Landover Center Annex to Capitol Hill Wednesday, Nov. 12, between 2 and 3 p.m.

The truck's route was along Brightseat Road to Sheriff Road, Addison Road, Kenilworth Avenue, and East Capitol Street to Capitol Hill.

● Missing are one large canvas hamper containing 18 bound newspaper volumes and one red plastic box containing miscellaneous library materials.

Anyone finding these items or

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**FOR INFORMATION CALL:** 345-0324 (or 474-4418 after 6 p.m.)

### NOTICE

If you know of someone who has not received his copy of the News Review, please ask him to call circulation manager Earl Kepler, 345-2670. Circulation problems cannot be worked out until we know about them.

News Review Staff

having information about the location of the items is asked to call the Library of Congress on 287-5127. The Library will send a truck to pick up the items.

### Office Space For Rent in Greenbelt

Approximately 300 sq. feet

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**FOR SALE** - Traditional wide arm sofa. \$65 or best offer. Cash & carry. 345-7975.

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## PARKING TICKETS DEADLINE DEC. 1

Maryland motorists may have their tag renewal applications withheld next February should they fail to pay parking tickets or comply with auto safety equipment repair orders by Monday, Dec. 1.

Equipment repair orders, under Maryland law, can be issued by any Maryland law enforcement officer if, in the judgment of the officer, a vehicle fails to meet minimum safety requirements.

If parking tickets are not paid by Dec. 1, the motorist's tag renewal application will be withheld, or "flagged," and he/she may also face a special flagging fine of up to \$10.00 imposed by subdivisions participating in the program, or monthly late fines, or both.

Parking tickets may be paid to the City Treasurer, City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road.

Doll House Antique, Approx. 3' x 3'. Make offer. Book Case, Maple, Glass Sides \$50.00, Stereo \$50.00, Maple Rocker \$75.00. 345-0174 after 5.

## CHILDREN VOTE

During election time children in Prince Georges County were given an opportunity to participate in an election of their own. All county libraries conducted an election for children who were invited to come in and vote for their favorite books.

First place winner was "Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret" by Judy Blume. Second place went to "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White, 3rd, "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" by Judy Blume and 4th, "Curious George" by H. A. Rey.

Just as Greenbelt election results often differ from state and national results, Greenbelt children's winner differed from the county winner. The favorite book in Greenbelt was "Tina Gogo" by Judie Angell. Ms. Angell visited her fans in Greenbelt last Tuesday, November 18.

## Happy Thanksgiving

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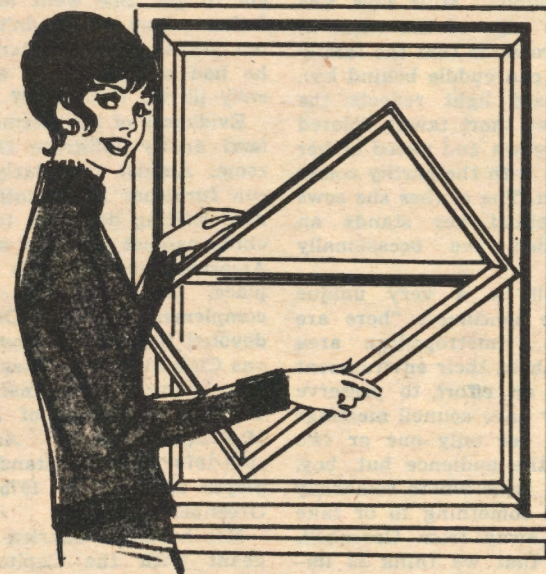
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A Greenbelt Profile

## Greenbelt Municipal Clerk Describes Special Duties

by Mar-Lyn Weiner

They are members of an ancient profession. In 200 B.C. they were scribbling on papyrus for the Pharaohs. Today they type on IBM Selectrics. Formerly they were called scribes. Today they are called city clerks. In the case of Greenbelt's City Clerk, Gudrun Mills, the title is Certified Municipal Clerk. Mrs. Mills is one of only three clerks in the state to have attained this honor.

The three-year certification program for city clerks, which Mills recently completed, involves over 100 class hours, job experience and public service requirements. The program was developed by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks to professionalize the occupation.

A city clerk's duties depend upon the city charter. Greenbelt's charter contains only two sentences pertaining to the clerk's position: that the clerk is the keeper of the records of the city, and that the clerk will perform such other duties as may be prescribed by charter or by ordinance. In reality these two sentences translate into a list of responsibilities that include recording and preparing the minutes for council meetings, keeping a referral system pertaining to council actions, and acting as a certifying attesting officer. The work load doubles in an election year, when the clerk is responsible for voter registration, maintenance of voter registration books, preparation of paper work and all legal ads in conjunction with the election. Recently she traveled to Baltimore to personally sign 400 general obligation bonds.

"Greenbelt clerks work hand in hand with the city administrators. We are all more or less serving the same cause and that is to serve the public," Mills says. She sits on the edge of her chair in her living room so that the family dachshund can cuddle behind her. The overhead light reflects the sheen of her short tawny colored hair. The brown and tweed of her dress blend with the earthy colors of the room. The clothes she sews herself. Behind her stands an organ which she occasionally plays.

"Greenbelt is a very unique place," she continues; "here are people in a metropolitan area who care about their environment and make an effort to preserve it. We may have council meetings where you see only one or two people in the audience but, boy, you get an issue where somebody tries to do something to or take something away from Greenbelt, something that we think is important to our way of life, and the people really go all out and fight for it."

She spikes her speech with

"gee" and "boy," and there is only the faintest hint of a foreign accent. Gudrun was born and raised in Berlin during the height of Hitler's power. After the war, when she was 19, she applied for a visa to the United States.

"When the war was over it was a very difficult time emotionally for a lot of young people because the things that came out after the war were very difficult to accept. Many of us felt we didn't want to have any part of it. We wanted to leave." While awaiting her visa she worked as a translator for the Occupation Forces. During this time she met her future husband, Charles Mills. In 1951 her visa came through and she came to Philadelphia, where she met Charles' folks. Soon after, she and Charles were married.

### Return to Germany

Gudrun recently revisited Germany on a tour that was arranged by members of St. Hugh's Catholic Church. "I kind of fell into it by quirk," she says. She decided to go five days before take-off when she heard of a ticket cancellation. "I've crossed the Atlantic three times but always by boat. I was just convinced that a plane would never get off the ground," she laughs for a moment, and then becomes serious. "The timing was right, it was meant to be, like somebody had given me a shove and said you've got to go." She went to see her father whom she hadn't seen in ten years. A week after she left he had a stroke and was critically ill. On October 27 he died.

Evidences of her German homeland subtly infiltrate the living room. Amidst the Early American furniture is an antique German writing desk. On top of the china cabinet are beer steins. An American eagle adorns the fireplace, and German paintings complement the walls. One wall is devoted to plaques. Most are Lions Club awards for her husband. Two awards are inscribed to Gudrun: President of Maryland Municipal Clerks Association 1978-1979, and Outstanding Employee of the Year 1975—City of Greenbelt.

Her husband, Charles, is a sergeant with the Capitol Police. They have two daughters, Gina 18, and Monica 19. "I have a lot to be thankful for," she says. "I think it is important to have a

ily. Several other property owners stated that an escrow account would be difficult for them to afford — Bobbie McCarthy, Robert Wilson, and Joe Murray. Wilson said, "I would prefer to seek an exception, but I want to do something for Greenbelt."

All the Cooney family members spoke to council, if only to explain as the boys did that they, like other audience members, thought the sign-up sheet for speakers was an attendance list. In a tension-filled evening, the "attendance list" provided some humor. "We are not some faceless corporation, and hardly affluent," Jim Cooney assured council. He expressed the families' fears that they might not be able to build in Greenbelt, "an oasis," if public improvements were required now. Councilman Thomas White commented, "I find Mr. Cooney's sincere comments about Greenbelt atypical of developers."

### Encourage Single Family Homes

Lakeside resident Eileen Peterson recalled the inception of the idea that individual families join together to buy lots and build homes on Upper Ridge Road. She noted that if the large lots were sold because these individuals could not afford to build on them, there would again be a threat of large development in that area. "These people are not wealthy," she said, "anything we can do to help them is good." Further, she suggested the costs could be lowered with modifications of the standards such as allowing sidewalks narrower than 4 feet.

On the other side, Eunice Coxon told council, "you are opening Pandora's box." She felt special assessments were "most often used for unique commercial works" and would be a "subsidy" for private individuals.

City Manager James Giese reminded her that the financing was not for the benefit of private property, but rather for public improvements such as gutters, sidewalks and street widening. He also noted that such financing was "more common adjacent to individual homes, not private businesses." It has been used in Berwyn Heights and College Park. White explained that Greenbelt's use of special assessments has been for things that will benefit the city, in the case of Greenhill Road for better traffic flow and in Greenway Shopping Center to encourage annexation. He felt use of it in this case would also benefit the city because it would allow these families to afford to develop eight lots, rather than the permitted 18 - 20 lots. Further, he noted council has rejected requests when there wasn't a benefit for the city such as for Springhill Lake North. The distinction between individuals and commercial profit-making businesses bothered White, and he added "I don't think there's anything precedent setting about tonight."

Councilman Richard Castaldi did not feel a precedent was involved either. Although he was not sure the people asking for a special assessment would get a benefit, he thought the city would benefit from better roads. Speaking midway through the evening he said "it's getting to be a difficult night; some people feel that someone is

good husband who is your friend and your sweetheart, who stands behind you. I think of coming to America and living here and being able to gripe and complain like everybody else. I enjoy today. I don't live in the past and I don't live in the future. What is past I can't change and tomorrow is going to take care of itself."

getting a little more of the cake than someone else had the opportunity to get."

Councilman Charles Schwan offered a solution, "I suggest the lot owners form a corporation — this will make the whole thing kosher." Joe Remenick of Westway, concerned about appearances, precedents, lower interest rates, and "a free lunch," asked "Who besides them can ever benefit?" In response, council members expressed their support of such single-family, large-lot development in other areas such as parcels 3 and 4, even 1 and 2. Again Castaldi noted that "the only benefit is for public improvements." The real reason for this ordinance, he said, is "encouraging single-family development and getting street improvements at one time."

Several audience members wondered why street improvements would be done in front of a city park. Giese noted that improvements there did not need to be done, but that he recommended they be done because the other side of the street would be improved. Richard Ley, speaking as a private individual, was concerned about the city spending money on those improvements when the money wasn't in the budget. "Are we setting a precedent?" asked Ley. Then he suggested that an ordinance be made establishing the principle of using special assessments for private development. The Councilmen pointed out that it would be hard to make one rule for all cases and that another council could reverse this council's decision anyway.

### Subsidy or Benefit

"It galls me that I am going to subsidize eight lots up there," said Ed James. White asked about his view of city financing for GHI. James responded that GHI would benefit the city by raising the city's credit rating. White noted that the city credit rating has gone up already without GHI. Next, James said he would prefer the park area left as is. Although it would be possible to leave that area unimproved, White felt it would be a "double standard" to require owners but not the city to carry out adjacent street and public improvements. Giese stated that both the lot owners and the city could benefit from economies-of-scale.

James Drake of Lakeside could not "understand why people think they are being ripped off." He questioned whether the property

owners should be required to widen Ridge Road since it already is an access road used by many, especially GHI. He felt he would personally benefit from the special assessment and added, "If I were building I would be protesting." Nancy Neupert of Lakeside echoed him with, "I feel it's outrageous to make these people pay the full costs of widening the road it will benefit all of Greenbelt."

Future neighbors of the property owners from Lakewood also spoke in favor of the ordinance. Adele Jenkins was "shocked at the lack of compassion" saying she was happy to have five homes behind her instead of 10 or more. Cathy Abbott added "It will be a loss to Greenbelt if we drive these people out of Greenbelt."

Steve Curtis disagreed with the idea of city financing for individuals. Curtis favored it for corporations because they would provide tax revenues. White, however, pointed out that there would be no difference in tax revenues if one person or eight developed the land. Curtis suggested that smaller lots, providing more homes would provide the "greatest good for the greatest number." He suggested deciding the matter by referendum, but was informed that this action is not subject to referendum. However, it was noted that there will be an election next fall.

John Lewis felt the area in front of the park should not be improved and found too many loopholes in the ordinance. However, Schwan noted that there was always the loophole of another council reversing the decisions of this council.

### MANKIEWICZ SPEAKS

A free forum entitled "Conservative Religion and Right-Wing Politics" will be given at 9:30 a.m. at Paint Branch Unitarian Church, 3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi on Sun., Nov. 30.

Frank Mankiewicz, president of National Public Radio and the American correspondent for the BBC, will assess the impact of groups like Moral Majority and NCPAC on the 1980 elections. Mankiewicz was press secretary for Senator Robert F. Kennedy and campaign director for the 1972 McGovern presidential campaign.

Watch for ticket info.  
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Concert



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